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PATENT

TC 1700

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Application No.: 09/848,965

Filed: May 04, 2001

Inventor(s):

Powell, Clois E.

Title: PROCESS FOR
TREATING SMECTITE
CLAYS TO FACILITATE
EXFOLIATION

Examiner: Sanders, K. A.

Group/Art Unit: 1714

Atty. Dkt. No: 5628-02102

**CERTIFICATE OF MAILING
UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.8**

DATE OF DEPOSIT: 1-9-03

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail on the date indicated above and is addressed to:

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, DC 20231

Jackie L. Pfl

AMENDMENT: RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION MAILED OCTOBER 10, 2002

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Madam:

Please amend the above-captioned application as follows:

In the Claims:

Please amend the claims as follows. A “strike-through version” of the amended claims is appended to the response. Applicant submits that the amendments made to the claims were made to correct claim drafting errors and to further define the scope of the claims. The amendments were not made in response to the cited art.

10. (amended) A method of preparing a nanocomposite comprising: